

**MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS COMMITTEE**

June 4, 2008
MAG Cholla Room, 2nd Floor
302 North First Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Scott Nodes, ADOT
*Soyoung Ahn, ASU
Kelly LaRosa, City of Avondale
*David Johnson, Town
of Buckeye
Mike Mah, City of Chandler
Mike Lockhart, DPS
Jerry Horacek City of El Mirage
Alan Hansen, FHWA
Ken-Ichi Maruyama, Town of Gilbert
Debbie Albert, City of Glendale
Luke Albert, City of Goodyear

Nicolaas Swart, Maricopa County
Jeff Jenq, City of Mesa
Ron Amaya, City of Peoria
*Ron Doubek, City of Phoenix
Bob Ciotti, Phoenix Public Transit
Michael Pacelli, Town of Queen Creek
Bruce Dressel, City of Scottsdale
Brian Moberly for Nicholas Mascia, City
of Surprise
*Jim Decker, City of Tempe
*Arkady Bernshteyn, Valley Metro Rail

OTHERS PRESENT

John Dickson, ADOT
Gary Rylander, Rylander Consulting
Lisa Burgess, KHA Inc
Sachin Katkar, AMEC
Bob Steele, Olsson Associate
Rajesh Dwivedt, Telvent Farradyne
Sarath Joshua, MAG
Leo Luo, MAG

Lydia Warnick, ADOT
Don Wiltshire, YSMA
Armand Ciccarelli, PBS&J Inc
Bo Gao, TransCore
Paul Ward, Olsson Associate
Yung Cossar, Morrison Maierle
Kiran Guntupalli, MAG
Craig Chenery, MAG

*Not present

1. Call to Order
Chairman Mike Mah called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.
2. Approval of May 7, 2008 Meeting Minutes
Ron Amaya moved, Debbie Albert seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve minutes of the May 7, 2008 ITS Committee meeting.
3. Call to Audience
Chairman Mike Mah made a call to the audience providing an opportunity to any members of the public to address the ITS Committee. No comments were received.

4. Program Managers Report

Sarath Joshua addressed the following items in his report:

- ITS Communications Workshop

The ITS Communications Workshop was held on May 15. It includes four sessions and is productive and well attended. An RCN working group meeting will be held on July 2 in Cholla Room at 9:00am before the ITS Committee Meeting. RCN update and RCN operations plan will be discussed at the meeting.

- FY2008 close out funding for ITS

Four ITS projects are funded in the close out. One Mesa ITS project is on the contingency list.

- FY2010-FY2014 TIP

All the projects applied for the FY2009-2013 TIP last year will be programmed. However, MAG will not program the FY2010-FY2014 TIP this year. FY2014 and FY2015 projects will be programmed next year of 2009.

- Status of Traffic Signal Systems in the Region

Sarath mentioned the need to have an annual survey on the status of traffic signal systems in the region. The latest survey was conducted in 2006. Sarath also confirmed with Kelly LaRosa that MAG will provide the results of the last survey so that member agencies can just update the numbers. Jeff Jenq suggested that the survey questions should be very clear on the meaning. Sarath said that he will welcome any comments for improvement. Based on the general agreement, a draft survey form will be sent to the committee members after the meeting.

- Highway Enhancements for Safety (HES) funds for ITS

About \$7.6m of federal safety funds is unutilized at the present time. The federal share for the projects under HES can be as high as 100%. Although the HES fund is dedicated for safety improvement, studies have shown that many ITS projects including traffic signal optimization have significant impact on safety. Debbie Albert mentioned that the application of the funding requires a study that must show the potential benefit-costs from the project and an evaluation of the project after it is completed. Sarath Joshua and Chairman Mike Mah both stated that since many studies in the nation have shown the safety cost-benefit of similar types of projects, would it be possible to refer to those instead. MAG staff will work with FHWA and ADOT to help member agencies make use of the funding and maybe simplify the process if possible. Sarath also offered MAG staff to provide assistance with safety analysis for member agencies who want to utilize this funding. Alan Hanson and Dick Johnson confirmed that even the project does not involved ground disturbance, there will be environmental clearance process requirement, but the process will be relatively simple and fast compared to other types of projects. Sarath Joshua provided a list of potential types of projects that may qualify for the funding.

5. ADOT Travel Time Display on DMS

Scott Nodes from ADOT briefly introduced the background of the project. Lisa Burgess from Kimley-Horn Associate Inc. provided a preliminary evaluation results on the project. More than 70% of the user feedback show a positive attitude about the project. Scott Nodes added that the Technical Advisory Committee for the project met after receiving the preliminary results. Based on the recommendations of the Technical Advisory Committee, ADOT will change the strategy of displaying the travel times on DMS starting on July 22, 2008. Decision on whether to stop or keep or expand the program will be made after one year test period. Sarath Joshua also mentioned that a USDOT or FHWA memo and the draft new MUTCD requires the capability of travel time display on all new DMS installed on

freeways and major arterial streets. Scott also thanked the members of the technical committee of the project for their support.

6. Arizona Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project

Sarath Joshua briefed the committee on a BRT project starting from Mesa Sycamore Light Rail Station to Chandler Tumbleweed Park. Along the BRT route on Country Club Drive/Arizona Avenue, intersection signals are controlled by four agencies including Mesa, Gilbert, ADOT and Chandler. Since the agencies are applying different devices for signal preemption/prioritization and even different strategies, it is necessary to consider this factor when the BRT project moves forward. Leo Luo mentioned that according to Carol Ketcherside, RPTA is planning on applying for an FTA grant for implementing the project. If the project is funded by the federal funding, transit signal priority will be a requirement.

7. Status Reports by Committee Members on ITS Activities

Bruce Dressel from Scottsdale mentioned that Scottsdale has entered into a contract with a firm from Canada for encoding and decoding devices as well as for system integration. Jeff Jenq, from Mesa, mentioned initiating a procurement process for upgrading the new Icons central control system to support ACS-3 controller that will support the main street BRT project. Alan Hansen from FHWA explained how to provide the ITS deployment survey to the right contact in each jurisdiction. Debbie Albert from Glendale provided information on the new FHWA traffic signal timing manual. Ron Amaya mentioned that Peoria has approved the IGA with ADOT for their new TMC project. Nicolaas Swart from MCDOT provided an update on regional incident management coalition project. The county has launched a study to review the state-of-the-practice in Incident Management. MAG will be holding a workshop on Incident Management, which is expected to lead to the formation of an Incident Management Coalition for the I-10 corridor. Scott Nodes invited John Dickson from ADOT local government section to address some of the issues regarding the ADOT fees in reviewing the ITS projects. He also provided one copy of the ADOT Local Government Project Manual to be distributed to MAG member agencies.

8. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting date was announced at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 2, 2008.

9. Adjournment

Chairman Mike Mah adjourned the meeting at 11:15 AM.